



# Newsletter

October  
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PO Box 2 Huskisson 2540 NSW  
Presidents Address

Events over the last 12 months have left me feeling drained and disillusioned. Significantly, State Government initiatives over recent months have confronted not only all divers in NSW, but all users of waterways, with a new form of tax that directly threatens the Australian way of life. It threatens our love of the great outdoors by removing our rights of free access to the passive enjoyment of our unique environment.

Careless and unprepared responses from representatives within the diving industry have played into the hands of ruthless and conniving Government representatives in their pursuit of increased funding. The result is a proposed tax, which removes your right to SCUBA dive freely.

Along with basic Australian ideals, the tragic victim of the Government's SCUBA Licensing Scheme is the Grey Nurse Shark. As long as no effective protection is afforded the GNS, the DPI can continue to dream up new ways of capitalising on the shark's plight, using its' Endangered Status to help justify new taxes which offer the shark no immediate protection whatsoever.

The DPI are sitting on reports from within their own organisation and from external, independent sources, which clearly identify the threats to the GNS, and the immediate actions that need to be taken. What we are seeing instead, is deliberate procrastination and reluctance from our Government. We are seeing the preventable extinction of a magnificent species, being facilitated by inaction, simply because those preventative measures conflict with the interests of primary industry and our elected representatives. Simply put, the GNS is being sacrificed for money.

This battle continues to be fought on many fronts. The incoming committee will need to address this issue as a matter of priority.

The last 12 months have been difficult for the club, with a number of committee members having much of their time consumed by personal obligations, leaving the majority of responsibilities in the hands of a dedicated few. This has been further exacerbated by some offices remaining vacant. Despite these shortfalls in resources, we've achieved several significant accomplishments:

1. We've maintained and actually enhanced our working relationship with JBMPA, establishing dialogue with a view to gaining low-level involvement in the park's future management. I personally feel that this mutual relationship is of enormous potential benefit to the Club, the Park and, importantly, the Bay;
2. We've maintained our rights of usage of the Moorings within Booderee National Park;
3. We've instigated, encouraged and supported the production of a dedicated wildlife guide for Jervis Bay, by accomplished author, Neville Coleman. This will be a great asset to the Bay;
4. We've been proactive in maintaining a public profile, with several articles in local newspapers, including colour photos and substantial commentary on issues such as Dive Taxes, Neville Coleman's Nature Guide and David Powter's PJ Research. Sue Newson's face is becoming a permanent feature of local papers;
5. We've maintained a level of awareness amongst our membership of issues which effect the club, its' members and the environs of Jervis Bay;
6. We've re-established ties with SCAN, and added our weight behind their substantial push against the current dive tax proposals;
7. We've supported our existing membership base, through social functions, educational and entertainment initiatives and the bi-monthly newsletter, right throughout the entire year;
8. We've recruited new members to our ranks, and managed to retain a large proportion of existing members.

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## News Flash

### OceanTrek Ballet

It's on again!  
Weekend from the  
18th to the 20th of  
November. Get your  
ticket in quick.

Submissions have to  
be in by the  
9th November 2005

Members and Committee Meetings are held on the LAST WEDNESDAY of each month at  
7 pm at Vincentia Golf Club Murray Street Vincentia.  
All members are welcome to attend

This was my second and final term as President. As much as I'd like to continue, I no longer feel that I have the level of support from the membership that I require, in order to hold this position. I know that I've given the job the effort it deserves, and I believe I've set a new benchmark in dedication.

There have been many days and weekends that I've spent drafting club correspondence, maintaining records, researching issues on the internet and talking with key people on the phone, when I'd much rather have been out diving with everybody else. The role of President, like others, is one that requires a significant commitment of time and effort.

As the elected spokesperson for the club, there are times when the President needs to go out on a limb and represent the club as a group. In doing that, it is not possible to represent all individuals. The President cannot confer with all members on all issues. There will often be people that have alternative views.

It's important to refer to the committee on important issues, but I've found, at times, I was not able to secure feedback from committee members. Committee members perform their duties for the club in their own time. You can't volunteer time that you don't have. My response to these shortfalls has been to take up the slack on my own. Some may argue that I should have shown stronger leadership and whipped people into action, but that's just not my style. It's also often not even possible to demand more effort, because people do have legitimate commitments outside the club.

Deciding the right course of action can sometimes conflict with your own preferences and values. It can be a difficult job, particularly when you have a very strong commitment to your own values, as I do to the environment. As an example, it's my strong personal opinion that dive charter operators should not be allowed to disturb GNS aggregations by placing large groups of divers on top of them, for the purpose of profit or "income", and the industry should not be allowed to regulate itself in this regard. I can argue that position convincingly, but it remains a view that is very unpopular, and hence, being President, I'm not able to pursue this, even personally.

I know of good clubs that have suffered - from individuals who have pursued their own agenda. It's important to me, that JBDC does not allow itself to go the same way. I've expended great effort in offering objective guidance to this club, and I will remain dedicated to ensuring that the club remains objective in its' performance. It's been a difficult task, walking the fine line of trying to assist the club in benefiting from my own experience, and passion for diving and the environment, without applying undue bias.

Tonight, along with the reigns to this organisation, I hand over the following:

1. The Mooring Register, which is to be forwarded to Booderee when updated, or quarterly;
2. The bi-monthly newsletter, for the committee to decide how this will proceed;
3. The JBDC response to the DPI's proposed SCUBA license, which needs to be drafted and submitted in by Dec 1<sup>st</sup>. I've spent approx 60 hours researching this proposal. The club's response will need to be detailed and thorough, addressing a comprehensive list of relevant issues;
4. The application for JBDC membership to SCAN, which should be in as soon as possible. I've held off on this because we need to nominate a SCAN delegate – somebody who can liaise directly with John Olsen (SCAN President) and make representations on behalf of JBDC. I've been corresponding with John Olsen over the last few weeks and I'm impressed with his tenacity and motivation. I'm optimistic about our relationship with SCAN. It'll cost us \$20 per year;
5. The new committee will need to consider a public and supportive affiliation with the Saltwater Environment Alliance (SEA) – a group of peak environmental organisations, supported by a range of groups and individuals, who are working together for a better protected, well managed and healthier NSW marine environment. SEA are very much on the side of SCUBA divers on the issue of a dive tax. SCAN have registered as an official supporter, and have asked all member dive clubs to consider registering their support as a separate entity to SCAN. I've been unable to respond to SCAN's request for a statement of support from JBDC, because I haven't yet received the feedback I requested from the committee. I have some significant reservations about this organisation which I've communicated to the secretary, and I'm confident that she'll ensure the new committee considers them before deciding on the way ahead;
6. Securing funding for Neville Coleman's Wildlife Guide. I've contacted Leigh Harris (Manager JBMPA) and frozen our request for funding for this project, after the unwelcome reception this received at last month's meeting. I personally think that this request should proceed. I think it's right that JBMPA contribute and receive recognition for their contribution. This also needs to be addressed quickly because JBMPA may not be in a position to assist later in the financial year. I think JBDC is capable of producing a very worthy Jervis Bay Wildlife Guide on our website which will require no funding assistance, but I also think there are a number of reasons why we'll not be able to secure funding for our own publication. I think we should be approaching Neville to step up our involvement in the project rather than be seeking to wind it back;
7. Co-ordinating and cataloguing the JBDC submission of photos to Neville Coleman for his book, should the committee decide to proceed. Our submissions to Neville will need to be co-ordinated, managed and recorded; and
8. The responsibility of maintaining a public presence for the club and the good things that we are doing for the bay and the wider environment. The new committee will need to be cognisant of opportunities to involve the media in what we do. We are lucky to have access to a motivated local journalist who is a diver himself.

So, I'd really like to see some serious consideration given to just how much effort will be expected from the President and other committee positions, before nominations are called for. I really do want, and expect, the incoming committee to share the workload for the next 12 months, and make running this club a team effort.

The club depends heavily on the committee for so many of the administrative and representational duties, and it can sometimes be an ungratifying experience. The club, however, is not a club without the members, and I thank all of you for your membership. JBDC has a truly impressive membership and I'm not speaking numerically.

I want to close by saying that I think very highly of this club, and what it stands for. It's not just about diving, and it's not at all about material values or ego. Jervis Bay Divers Club is as much about Jervis Bay as it is about the diving. It's about community and friends. It's about the importance of ecosystems like Jervis Bay, and what they offer the wider community. JBDC cares for and appreciates the environment. It recognises the significance and the majesty of the millions of inhabitants of a world beyond the reach of many.

I'm continually impressed by the passion that so many of you feel for your own favourite little critters, and your thirst for knowledge and understanding. I'm fascinated by how such a rowdy rabble from all walks of life can find so much harmony and organisation in the simple pursuit of a common interest. I'm particularly moved by those special moments, where if you're lucky, you are made to feel insignificant but very special, by being permitted to share a spontaneous, intimate encounter with a creature more in tune with nature than yourself. Some of you know the feeling I'm talking about. If you don't, I sincerely hope that some day you will.

Finally, I ask you all to raise your glasses and drink a toast, to the people sitting next to you.

Rod Peterlin  
President

#### STOP PRESS:

During the days leading up to the AGM, I was moved by the expressions of support I was receiving from members. I found increasing difficulty in refusing repeated calls to stand again for the position of President. It was not that I didn't want the position, although I was looking forward to getting my weekends back, spending some time away from the computer and starting to dive again.

At the AGM, after announcing my intention to step down from the committee, I was touched by some very sincere and heartfelt calls to reconsider. After what I thought was a bridge-burningly provocative address, I was surprised to find overwhelming support. Some old hands were consulted, and my reasons for standing down were 'resolved'.

Accordingly, I accepted the nomination for President and now find myself back in the seat for another twelve months. I'm very happy with the new committee, and I look forward to a productive year.

## The Secretary Report

With the closing of the 2005 official year for the Jervis Bay Divers Club, it is with a lot of pride that we look toward 2006.

2006 is a huge milestone for the club, on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January 2006; we will achieve and celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> year anniversary as a dive club in Jervis Bay. On 28<sup>th</sup> January 1986, 24 keen divers meet to discuss the formation of a local dive club, one that was not operated by any commercial dive operation, but a stand alone club for local divers and their families.

The club has been a successful and fun club since that day, and 2006 is now the start of the continuation of our club's philosophy as an organization that enjoys diving, socializing and has a zealous environmental voice. The new committee will be organizing a celebration of this event.

Every year seems to be a big year for the JBDC in regards to issues concerning the Bay and no more than 2005. Responding to the demand and responsibility to act and comment on issues takes a lot of energy and time, and as with any voluntary committee in these busy times, finding the time to dedicate to these goals is sometimes difficult.

The JBDC is continuously involved in many environmental and political issues, the club has kept abreast of the issues, and in 2005 Rod has taken on the responsibility to review issues, report to the committee and make the appropriate responses.

The committee and membership have now reviewed and accepted the invitation to rejoin the Association SCAN [Scuba Divers Association of NSW] we were invited in February but the committee had some reservation regarding SCANs lack of Public Liability Insurance and until we received advice on this we were withholding accepting the invitation. This advice was sought and there was a delay in receiving final comments until just recently, and the advice was that our concerns were appropriate but should not be significant. In September the committee accepted this advice and has now accepted the invitation to rejoin SCAN.

The timing of this is significant as the release of the proposed Scuba Diving Fee in NSW will require our strong alliance with this organisation.

The Scuba Diving fee is an issue that the committee and in particular Rod has been working on since it's was first proposed in early June. There has been a lot of press, especially in the "chat pages" of the internet and in publications. This issue is one of our priorities for the new committee to respond to and act upon

Another issue that the club has been involved in, in 2005, is the objection of Spear fishing competition held in the JBMP. As a result of myself bringing it up at a JBMP Advisory committee meeting [representing Scuba Diving Interests] the issue has been taken to the minister and a Working Committee has been formed to address this issue and Warren represents the JBDC and I represent Scuba Divers in general on this committee. In 2004 – 2005 the JBDC lobbied with a petition for the community to sign in their support for objection to the conduct of spear fishing competition in the JBMP and the collection of names was taken on by Warren. Initially this had a lot of moral support from the membership, but disappointingly the membership did not rally to this issue by assisting with the collection of names on the petition. To date we have collected approximately 900 names supporting the petition

This issue remains "hot" with recent breaches of conduct of these competitions. The Working Group will be meeting in November to review the research into world wide Spear fishing competitions and their impact on the environment.

Another issue that the JBDC and Rod have continued with in 2005 is the streamlining of the use of moorings in the Booderee National Park for JBDC members. The management of this privilege is now refined by the committee by the establishment of a mooring use register and pennant system.

The club also had Neville Coleman return to Jervis Bay and do some presentation on marine life and to discuss the publication of his Jervis Bay Wildlife Guide and to seek support from the JBDC. In cooperation with the JBMPA funding has been sought and the new committee will review our further support also as an important issue

We continue to assist David Powter from the Newcastle University in his final year of research into the Port Jackson Shark. Many members have taken this job on personally to provide data to this program, in particular Sue Newson [the PJ wrangler], Heike and Rod and many other members. We are one of the few clubs who are regularly providing information for this research. His results have been surprising and informative.

We have been able to maintain a low cost Public Liability Insurance for the 2005-2006 period @ \$512.37 for a coverage of 10 million PL and \$5000 possession Insurance

There are a lot of very energetic people in the club who work behind the scenes to 'get things done'.

So I would like to take some time to thank them for their contribution to the JBDC.

- Firstly I would like to thank Rod for the passion and efficiency in which he has taken on the role as President. He has given to the club 100% of his energies in researching and responding to important environmental and political issues. He has fostered and nurtured the continued working relationship with the JBMPA and Booderee National Park. It is with a great loss and sadness that we accept his reluctance to continue as president in 2006.

- Also Dial-a-Buddy has been a tremendous success again and the club remains dynamic in its activities this is a result of the keenness and love for diving that Lynn and Ross have and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for this dedication and friendship. And to the social committee for organizing so many fun events for the year
- The newsletter is one of the most important tool we have as a club to maintain contact with our membership. The reins for this has been shared between myself, Rod and Heike [when she returned from Germany]. We have revamped the newsletter with a new look and our response form the membership has been good. As mentioned the newsletter is an important part of communication with the membership, but it also needs support from the membership to be successful.
- To Sue Newson, assistant secretary and membership manager.....what a great job she has done in refining the membership register and administrating the memberships. Renewals have run smoothly and efficiently. She has even found long term problems and resolved them
- To Geraldine...have I got a deal for you.....has done an excellent job as our "Merchandise Officer", I am sure she has some special deals for those attending tonight

By Lyn Cleary

## JBDC Apparel for Sale.....Gear to Go

Support your club by purchasing some of these fine items

Polo Shirts	Maroon	\$30
Bucket Hats		\$20
Caps sued peek		\$15
Sloppy Joes [blue]		\$20
Polo Grey		\$15
T shirts		\$10
Cloth badges		\$2
JBDC pens		\$5

Stock available at club functions or call Geraldine 44416242  
The sale of this merchandise is a way of raising funds to print the newsletter and to keep membership fees as low as possible

## Members Businesses

If you would like your business to be advertised contact [Lyn@oceantrek.com.au](mailto:Lyn@oceantrek.com.au)

GAS CYLINDER TEST STATION GCT20645 ROBERT HERNE 67 THE PARK DRIVE SANCTUARY POINT 2540 0428 528257 OR 44432651	Dive lead weights	1lb flat	\$2
		2lb flat	\$4
		3lb	\$10
		6lb	\$10
		9lb	\$15

44218164

SIMMOS LEAD

# Social Committee Report

<p>The JB Divers meet again At Nikki's famous house To rave about our past events How great or how shit house</p> <p>We've had a few from time to time Like camping at Red Rock Or diving up at Sol-i-taires Or my fave South West Rocks</p> <p>We had a barb-b-q or two With seafood and the rest A 4B4 and boating rally Put us to the test.</p>	<p>A games night down at Suzie Ks Was great as you'd expect We met some people from abroad Now time to retrospect</p> <p>We did the big Port Stephens trip We cleaned Australia up Good Friday seafood all went well Now things are looking up.</p> <p>Another rally 4B4 Is on the cards again We'll leave the boats ashore this time And test our 4B brain.</p>	<p>A trip to check the tugs again Could well be in good stead The only thing we need tonight Is heaps of booze and bed</p>
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## Boat Rally

There was a club, a mighty club, who sailed the seven seas.  
All they had was a tinny boat a compass and knocked knees.

They set sail from Basin View, a tiny tiny ramp,  
All they had was a silly map, a compass and a lamp.

Their task was just a simple one, to navigate the land  
From Basin View to Sussex- they were given a hand.

Rosco was the skipper. He'd been this way before  
Had mapped out all the cardinal marks and everything he saw.

He gave these clues to the savvy crew, intelligent and brave,  
And all they had to do was solve, write and save.

So sit right back and begin your trip. A very interesting trip  
That started from the Basin port, upon a tiny ship.

by

### Games-Night

Wau – what a great attendance!  
There were activities in 6 (SIX!) different areas. We even had to invade the neighbours front yard!

The company was awesome and everyone had plenty of opportunity to kick back and socialise.

Lynn Chittick

## JB Idol

What a great night.  
I didn't realise we had so many talented people. Our judges were very impressed and rarely spoke harsh words. Alana's band was the first to hit the stage and she was followed by Will and Brad.  
John sang a lovely song which he dedicated to Beryl. Gav was next and wow what a voice! Rod followed with a very short rendition.  
Everyone was issued a prize-daggy old snorkels to fin straps to a single shoe.  
After the judging the fun began with Rod, John and Gavin entertaining the troops.

by Lynn Chittick

### Cocktail Party

Once again Jenny and Dave managed to produce some of the most delicious Cocktails known to mankind.

Everyone – the drivers and the non-drivers had plenty of opportunity to suck a variety of drinks through “exotic” straws.

### Up-Coming Events

Honeymoon Bay – 5/6 November  
OT Ballet – 18/20 November  
Seafood night – 19 December  
4WD-Rally – to be advised

## **Points System 2004-2005**

### **\$100 Prize Drawn at AGM**

[1 point = 1 ticket]

As a member you are entitled to attend any of the events advertised in the newsletter. You are also able to invite non-members to attend many of these events. As an incentive to contribute to the newsletter and to attend advertised events the committee has set up a reward system. If you live in the Shoalhaven you get one point/ticket for any event you attend while non residents are entitled to two points/ticket. Two points/tickets are given for each newsletter contribution. Anyone who has organised a club event is entitled to two points/tickets. At the AGM in October of each year a ticket will be drawn and the winner will receive a \$100 open order.

### **Points System**

#### **ACT NOW TO LET LUCY LIVE!**

- Saving the Grey Nurse Shark -

The NSW Government has just released a discussion paper with proposals for charging scuba divers to dive with our critically endangered Grey Nurse Sharks.

NPA-Marine calls on all supporters of the Grey Nurse Shark to oppose all options in this paper and instead use this public consultation period to demand that the NSW Government immediately protects the Grey Nurse Shark by creating 1500m sanctuaries around the 16 key habitat sites for the Grey Nurse Shark in NSW waters.

Less than 500 Grey Nurse Sharks remain along the entire Australian east coast. Without protection of their key habitats they look set to go extinct in our lifetimes

By voicing your opinion, you can help stop the extinction of the Grey Nurse Shark

Let Lucy Live is a campaign to protect NSW Grey Nurse Sharks. Lucy is one of these harmless sharks and forms the face of the campaign.

**Please take 2 minutes to visit our website and fill out the online submission form.**

With your help we can Let Lucy Live!

**Please visit [www.letlucylive.org.au](http://www.letlucylive.org.au)**

and pass this email around your networks

Nicky Hammond  
Marine Project Officer  
National Parks Association of NSW  
PO Box A96, Sydney South NSW 1235  
Tel: 02 9299 0000; Fax: 02 9290 2525  
Email: [marine@marine.org.au](mailto:marine@marine.org.au)  
Website: [www.marine.org.au](http://www.marine.org.au)

The pennants are now ready for members who have registered their boats with the JBDC for use of the Booderee moorings. You can pick them up at club meetings or contact

Rod 44415336

Cost \$15

If you have any input regarding the new look newsletter please send an e-mail to [jbdc@oceantrek.com.au](mailto:jbdc@oceantrek.com.au)



## Info

If you would like to advertise your private business or have equipment for sale, send your details to the club. or e-mail to

**jbdi-**

## Membership Update

Please call Sue Newson (4443 3294) for all membership inquiries.

These memberships are now due or due within the next 2 months.

Please find your renewal form enclosed.

Beddie – 16/11/05	Brydson – 11/11/05	Cufer – 18/11/05
Gilson – 12/11/05	King – 25/11/05	May – 14/11/05
Samuelson – 08/11/05	Todd – 16/11/05	Canon – 29/12/05
Grose – 29/12/05		

The following memberships are now due or overdue. To maintain active membership status, please renew. Please call Sue on 4443 3294 if you require a renewal form.

Buczek – 06/09/05	Petersen – 06/10/05	Simmonds – 23/9/05
Wright – 14/10/05		

It is club policy that if members fail to renew their membership within 3 months of their due date, they will be removed from the membership roll and will no longer be eligible for any member benefits. After 3 months a re-activation fee of \$10.00 will be required (as well as membership fee) to have membership status renewed and benefits regained. This renewal is at the discretion of the committee.

NB If you have renewed your membership within the past month and your name is listed please disregard this notice

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I Susan Newson am a scuba diver. I belong to the Jervis Bay Divers Club and I am a member of the PADI professional team of scuba divers. I manage my own scuba dive/snorkel business and work for other scuba diving businesses within the Jervis Bay area. I am a trained Fishcare volunteer for NSW Fisheries and also volunteer for research projects being undertaken within the Jervis Bay Marine Park. I keep watch for marine pests (such as *Caulerpa taxifolia*) and report any illegal activities I observe. I am passionate about my choice of recreation and the life that abounds beneath the surface waters of Jervis Bay.

I have only been scuba diving since the 1<sup>st</sup> Feb, 1998 and in that short length of time, I have learnt a great deal from my observations and the limited texts available. An amazing world we know very little about, other than what has been caught within a net, washed up on a beach or pulled out of the water on a hook and line. To date, I have survived 897 scuba dives, documenting every dive in detail including photographs. This is called a 'dive log'. I reference this valuable source of information on a regular basis and freely allow any other person to read and use the information it contains. I share my gained knowledge to anyone who is interested and actively promote conservation and respect for the environment. I receive no profits, thankyou or recognition for this, on the contrary, I am accused of being ignorant and of little importance because I don't have a university degree in Marine Biology, nor am I a politician.

For the past 8 years, I have watched the scuba diving industry grow and grow. The growing popularity for this sport has simply made it a target for revenue raising. Recent discussions regarding fees, taxes and licenses have likened this sport to fishing once again. Scuba diving is in no way similar to fishing. Scuba diving allows me to watch and learn, not kill and collect. It is not scuba divers that have been killing our oceans; it is scuba divers that have brought this devastation to the attention of the world. It is the scuba diver that sees what is happening beneath the water and it is the scuba diver that cares.

I have watched how other industries have affected the marine environment, from boating and ballast, to fishing and dredging; industries and governments pumping their political and industrial sewerage into our oceans.

I have seen the hypocrisy of a government that lists species for protection yet hires a contractor to remove nets covered in sea-horses and have them dumped at the local tip. The same government that allows unsustainable research practices on the Grey Nurse Shark and ignores recovery recommendations.

I have witnessed the hypocrisy of a seaside community sworn to the eradication of the plastic bag, yet still portions food into plastic bags for the public to feed fish in a stocked pond where the majority of these bags end up polluting. I live in a town that has a local restaurant selling shark fin soup and a temperate water community that displays tropical fish in the local schools and shops.

I witness the hypocrisy of fishing practices, where to kill a rare fish is a high achievement. Unfortunately, if they kill the wrong species, be it protected or not, of legal length or not, it's too late, if it's already dead. Many of them will not report an accidental catch of a protected species for fear of prosecution, assuming that these fishers are even able to correctly identify their catch at all.

I witness the hypocrisy of the media in charge of reporting the truth, yet they show footage of well fed aquarium Grey Nurse Sharks when some unlucky surfer or spear fisher has been eaten alive by a Great White.

Scuba diving is not a primary industry. It is a sport, a self regulated sport that promotes conservation of the environment from within the training organisations and the scuba divers themselves. This recreational scuba diving fee is merely a way for the NSW Department of Primary Industries to have a share in the money being spent by tourism and recreational dollars. This sport has voluntarily aided this industry in many ways through the passion and thirst for knowledge by scuba divers such as myself. I do not rely on any form of funding or government monies being spent to enable me to scuba dive. I work hard to earn the money I need to enable me to pursue this passive activity. Hard earned money that is already taxed in many different ways.

Now I find that I am being asked to pay even more for this privilege. Fees charged on the pretext of saving one endangered species. The Grey Nurse Shark, a shark that was decimated by the fishing industry decades ago, not by the scuba diving industry today. Scuba divers are the lucky ones that get to occasionally observe these and other magnificent creatures in their natural environment.

If I am to be made to fund projects that I already aid voluntarily, then the contents of the current discussion paper would need to reflect a greater commitment and sincerity toward scuba diving and marine conservation in NSW of all kinds, not just the Grey Nurse Shark. The ocean is still a greater unknown to people. Many of these people have never been underwater and experienced it for themselves. These are the sort of people that are put in charge of protecting our marine systems, the kind of people that make decisions regarding research methods and protection strategies. Their information gained primarily from archaic ideas and research information gained primarily from dead fish. These people don't see what we see. This is ignorance!

These people are ignorant to the process involved in becoming a scuba diver. The ongoing education and skills we acquire as our passion for the aquatic world grows. Skills, graded certifications, training sessions, study, exams and medicals, the list is endless. All have to be earned and paid for by the individual scuba diver. (I even have the option to help fund an organisation dedicated to conservation of the marine environment through this process.) This is already a structured organisation that operates and is recognised worldwide. These courses are held through agencies with well trained instructors that promote industry standard, scuba diving code of conduct practices that are accepted worldwide. Of course a good divemaster or instructor will always give a thorough environmental briefing relevant to any site they are diving and a good scuba diver will always be aware of their fin movements and buoyancy control. I admit there is the odd bad scuba diver swimming around. These are the ones that are only after the dollars or the misconceived glamour, or for some other reason. The one's that learn and never dive again or the one's that only dive once a year. The one's that think a fish is pretty but don't care to find out what it is and even the beginners that are still practicing to get it right. Even if all those divers grouped together, they would still cause less damage to a reef than what Mother Nature does during a storm.

Several issues regarding the scuba diving fee proposal are vague and I am concerned about their true meaning. These proposals sound more like the government is trying to dictate where and with whom the scuba diver will be permitted to dive. This will work well for some parties within the industry being able to gain a monopoly on a particular area. The price they pay for that privilege is to become a fee collector for the Department of Primary Industries, probably having their own separate commercial operator's fee to pay. Maybe the idea of a commission will be an incentive to soften the impact of the additional workload it will create on the dive businesses.

The recreational diving trust fund that is described in the discussion paper is no more than a carbon copy of the "similar" fishing fee. The only agreement I have in regards to this is 100% of the proceeds collected going to the trust fund. I disagree with the proposed structuring of the advisory committee. I have little faith that a scuba diver such as myself would be adequately represented or informed about policies and priorities of expenditure from the fund. I have little faith that the funds would go towards scuba diving interests only and more belief that it will only be used to 'top up' the existing fishing trust and to further fund their policies.

To say that the scuba diving trust would be used to fund costs of ensuring compliance with estuarine and marine fishing regulatory controls only highlights how the government is trying to make scuba divers pay for the past and present mistakes of the fishing industry.

tries. I cannot see where the similarity between fishing and scuba diving exists. Scuba diving is a passive sport. In the past, spear fishers have been labelled incorrectly as part of the scuba diving industry. It is more correct that a spear fisher is part of the recreational fishing industry. As a Fishcare Volunteer, I am trained not to approach scuba divers for fear of retaliation such as being threatened with a spear gun or knife, even though it is illegal to spear fish on scuba in NSW waters.

What type of commercial licenses will be bought back? The fishing trust buys back commercial fishing licenses, or is it the individual scuba diving business to be forced out with this buy back. This seems to be an easy way for influential parties in the industry to gain a monopoly. I don't see how this can benefit the scuba diver.

Sanctuary zones and other zones are designed to protect the environment but are of no use if they are not patrolled and enforced. My experience in Jervis Bay with these zones has only shown that the authorities lack the required personnel to perform these duties, even during periods of high usage and when certain fishing competitions are being held within the marine park. I wonder why it is when there are 3 governing bodies managing Jervis Bay, one of them already collecting an outlandish fee from people who enter that area.

To say that funds would be spent on developing educational and advisory materials on low impact diving. As explained previously, a scuba diver should already be trained and practiced in methods of low impact diving. I struggle to believe that this government is capable of creating accurate educational and advisory materials. Many publications and public notices in place already are full of errors and incorrect information, such as the public notice board on display at Little Beach in the Fly Point/Halifax Park aquatic reserve. This particular form of public education incorrectly portrays a Crested Horn Shark as being a Port Jackson Shark. What future do any of our marine creatures have if the people in power are unable to provide accurate and well informed information?

To offer scuba divers the promise of "opportunities to establish dive wrecks, artificial reefs, disabled access and public infrastructure" is merely a ploy to make us believe that these funds will be going toward "enhancing" scuba diving. Do we really need more wrecks and artificial reefs in NSW? These options only appeal to some scuba divers, not all. I am more than content to scuba dive on the natural reef systems in Jervis Bay. This is where I live. This is what I care about and want to protect. I don't need to travel to other dive sites to see Grey Nurse Sharks and other protected species. I do not need to patronise a particular diving operation to dive on a particular wreck or see a particular fish. I can do all of this independently in my own "backyard". I want to see and experience the natural wonders of the marine environment, not line up, buy a ticket and be dictated to about the way I can scuba dive in case a shark swims past. Sharks swim past me all the time and I swim past them too. If they didn't want me there, they would eat me or swim away. Mostly they appear not to care too much or they stay outside my visual range. I am already a responsible, well trained scuba diver.

I have met many disabled scuba divers and none of them have required special facilities. Their scuba equipment that they purchase themselves is usually designed to suit their special needs to be able to scuba dive. Many of the locations where I dive already have the public infrastructure that scuba divers and disabled scuba divers need to be able to scuba dive. These are also the same facilities needed by all who use those areas.

The discussion paper claims costs could go to "funding research activities on Grey Nurse Sharks and other threatened or protected species". I believe that further studies need be undertaken on the impact this type research has on a species. Areas of concern to me are current tagging methods, the accuracy of the information obtained and the methods used to obtain it. Many current tagging methods used do cause distress and impede the natural movements of the species, causing erosion wounds as well as attracting growth to the tagged area, causing further damage. I have seen the types of damage caused as a direct result of these tags and I totally object (100%) to funding any research that potentially does more harm than good, especially if the species is listed as endangered.

The suggestion regarding the "improvement of safety and welfare for divers" is just another example of what our own world-wide diving industry provides for scuba divers. I am already trained in first aid, rescue and various other emergency protocols. I carry my own safety equipment that is suitable to my circumstances and have a current scuba diving insurance policy. This is achieved at my own expense and with no additional help or funding relief from the government. Any other forms of medical, safety and rescue services that might be utilised by the scuba diving industry are also the same as the services required by every user of NSW waters.

The proposal for a scuba diving fee in NSW makes no mention of provisions being made to initiate a structured volunteer program. A volunteer program that allows scuba divers to participate and have an influence in the management of these funds would be essential. Scuba divers need somewhere to report their findings and discoveries. Many of these findings and discoveries are largely ignored by scientists, politicians and other organisations.

If I am to put another dollar in the NSW government coffers to pursue my sport, then I want my voice heard. I do not want to fund the correction of mistakes made by the past and present ignorance of another industry, I am not opposed to assisting in the conservation of the environment but I believe that efforts should not be concentrated on only one species when there are thousands more still to be discovered.

I don't believe that efforts should be concentrated on one area either. I dive in Jervis Bay and I care about Jervis Bay. I would be interested in the results of impact studies, such as what effects the Navy Sonar activities and other military exercises have on the marine environment and its inhabitants or perhaps a study or two on the effects of shipping ballast in NSW waters. I would like to see schools study their local eco systems, not just those of the Great Barrier Reef.

Scuba diving is only one of the many activities that occur in the waters of NSW. There are many other users of this natural environment including swimmers, snorkellers, surfers, boaters, fishers, home owners with water front property and anyone else in the broader community who has walked along the beach.

The given options in the discussion paper show no real long term planning for the environment, offers no public awareness programs and will not have any positive benefits for any scuba diver. I would prefer to see the NSW Government create a public awareness campaign designed to raise funds through greater community involvement.

I strongly oppose the proposed NSW scuba diving fee as outlined in the discussion paper and I am committed to my comments regarding this proposal. I am not speaking on behalf of anyone else or any organisation.

**I am a scuba diver and I vote!**

Ms Susan Newson

I strongly oppose the proposed NSW scuba diving fee as outlined in the discussion paper and I am committed to my comments regarding this proposal. I am not speaking on behalf of anyone else or any organisation.

I am a scuba diver and I vote!

Ms Susan Newson

Going Down on Dent Rock in October  
 – by Cookie Sue

*Dent Rock is a shore dive at Vincentia,  
 Its best diving is in winter at night  
 The water is cold, dark and scary  
 And the sharks will give you a fright*

*Listening to tales of past adventures  
 Two new Members and one old  
 Made a date to get Wet on Wednesday  
 An initiation dive is what they were told*

*Dave Powter came down with some colleagues  
 With acoustic tags for two adult sharks  
 We tagged them on Wednesday morning*

call Sue 4443 3294

*And watched them till long after dark,  
 So if you've never dived Dent Rock before  
 And you're a JB Dive club member  
 Phone Sue Newson at home to arrange it  
 And go diving Dent Rock in November.*



# Social Calender



## October

Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> : Monday Club  
 Claude 44415681  
 Wed 5<sup>th</sup> : Wet Wednesday  
 Cookie Sue 44433294  
 Wed 12<sup>th</sup> : Wet Wednesday  
 Cookie Sue 44433294  
 Sat 15<sup>th</sup> : Cocktail Party  
 Dave / Jenny Sim 44435953  
 Sun 16<sup>th</sup> : Boat Rally / Lunch at Sailfish  
 Club Chitticks 44434715  
 Wed 19<sup>th</sup> : Wet Wednesday  
 Cookie Sue 44433294  
 Wed 26<sup>th</sup> : Annual General Meeting at  
 Nikki's  
 Lyn Cleary 44416232  
 Sat 29<sup>th</sup> : Halloween Fancy Dress  
 Warren 44231621

## November

Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> : Wet Wednesday  
 Cookie Sue 44433294  
 Sat 5<sup>th</sup> – Sun 6<sup>th</sup> : Honeymoon Bay  
 Chitticks 44434715  
 Sat 5<sup>th</sup> : Underwater Orienteering  
 Rod / Cookie 44415336/44433294  
 Mon 7<sup>th</sup> : Monday Club  
 Claude 44415681  
 Wed 9<sup>th</sup> : Wet Wednesday  
 Cookie Sue 44433294  
 Wed 16<sup>th</sup> : Wet Wednesday  
 Cookie Sue 44433294  
 Fri 18<sup>th</sup> – Sun 20<sup>th</sup> : Ocean Trek Ballet  
 Lyn / Mick 44416232  
 Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> : Wet Wednesday  
 Cookie Sue 44433294  
 Wed 30<sup>th</sup> : Meeting at Vincentia Golf  
 Club 7pm

## December

Mon 5<sup>th</sup> : Monday Club

Claude

44415681  
 Wed 7<sup>th</sup> : Wet Wednesday  
 Cookie Sue 44433294  
 Sun 11<sup>th</sup> : Santa Geraldine 44416242  
 Wed 14<sup>th</sup> : Wet Wednesday  
 Cookie Sue 44433294  
 Mon 19<sup>th</sup> : Seafood Xmas  
 Chitticks 44434715  
 Wed 21<sup>st</sup> : Wet Wednesday  
 Cookie Sue 44433294  
 Sat 24<sup>th</sup> : Xmas Eve Dive  
 Rod 44415336  
 Wed 28<sup>th</sup> : Wet Wednesday  
 Cookie Sue 44433294



# Merry Christmas

# Ocean trek Ballet – Weekend 18th to the 20th of November 2005

Due to popular demand the trips on Ocean Trek go to ballot.

This is how it works:

Fill in the strip at the bottom of this page and return it to PO Box 2 Huskisson or send an e-mail with the required information to [dive@oceantrek.com.au](mailto:dive@oceantrek.com.au) or ring Lyn or Mick on 4441 6232 by the due date – Wednesday 9th November 2005.

Members of the Committee will draw the ballot shortly after the due date.

If you are successful you will be contacted ASAP and payment must be made in full within one week of notification.

## **RULES**

- ⇒ All people who nominate must be members of the Jervis Bay Divers Club.
- ⇒ You will be able to nominate your buddy on your entry slip. Up to a maximum of four (4) buddies may be nominated on one slip.
- ⇒ The allocation at the draw will be final.
- ⇒ There will be reserve ballots who may buy the position if somebody is unable to come aboard.

The present cost is \$220 per person, which is a considerable discount.

Traditionally, there will be a fancy dress party on the Saturday night. This years' theme is

**“What I want to be, when I grow up”**

## **OceanTrek Diving Resort Ballot**

Date: weekend 18 – 20 November 2005

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

This slip must be returned to PO Box 2, Huskisson, NSW 2540.

Or details must be e-mail to [dive@oceantrek.com.au](mailto:dive@oceantrek.com.au) (phone: 4441 6232).

**DUE DATE: 09 November 2005.**

The ballot will be drawn shortly after the 09/11/05 and notification will be given as soon after this as humanly possible.

**Acceptance of position is by payment in full no later than 1 week after notification**

# Committee 2005-2006

PRESIDENT	Rod Peterlin	44415336
VICE PRESIDENT	Lynn Chittick	44434715
TREASURER	Gavin Newhill	44437267
SECRETARY	Lyn Cleary	44416232
ASSISTANT SECRETARY	Sue Newson	44433294
COMMITTEE Chairperson	Sue Newson	44433294
COMMITTEE MEMBER	John Allen	44438110
	Leander Wiseman	44421265
ENVIRONMENT OFFICER	To be advised	
ASSISTANT TO E.O.	To be advised	
Publicity officer	To be advised	
SOCIAL COMMITTEE	Bob Cannon	44471201
	Sue King	44435758
	Geraldine Smith	44416242
	Heike Peterlin	44415336



Dial A Buddy  
02 44434715

Website  
[www.shoalhaven.net.au](http://www.shoalhaven.net.au/~jbdivers)  
/~jbdivers

Contact E-mail Address for  
Jervis Bay Divers Club  
[jbdivers@shoalhaven.net.au](mailto:jbdivers@shoalhaven.net.au)

## MISSION STATEMENT

- 1 Promote and enhance Safe Diving Practices in our Diving Activities whilst maintaining the essence of enjoyment and adventure
- 2 Promote and protect the environmental integrity of the marine ecosystem of Jervis Bay and surrounding environs.
- 3 To cater to members and their families both socially and in diving activities
- 4 To foster members interest in the marine environment through on going education. To represent the interest of recreational scuba divers on issues that effect Jervis Bay with relevant authorities.

### **Current Committee Business**

- Respond to the DPI's Discussion Paper regarding the Recreational Scuba Diving Fee
- SCAN membership and nomination of a Delegate
- Determine the extent of the club's support for Neville Coleman's Wildlife Guide to Jervis Bay
- Determine the level of support for the Saltwater Environment Alliance (SEA)
- Nominate duties for the ongoing production of the newsletter & the club website
- Vote on ancillary positions within the committee
- Initial Preparations regarding the 20th Anniversary of the Jervis Bay Divers Club

# STOP PRESS

## Recreational Tax on SCUBA Divers – by Rod Peterlin

You have until December 1<sup>st</sup> to make your case against the Department of Primary Industry's (DPI's) planned SCUBA Tax. Currently at \$30 per year for diving anywhere in NSW, it is sure to rise, and extend to other sports.

I personally believe this is nothing more than a means of extracting funding from the Federal Government, by way of them meeting the State Government revenue, dollar for dollar. Most of the funds raised from the license will be consumed by administrative costs. The only real financial benefit to the DPI would be the Federal injection – equivalent to the NET revenue from the License (before deducting costs).

The DPI brags about committing \$250,000 per year to ineffective GNS breeding programs, then implements a tax on our healthy lifestyle to cover it. Be motivated to defend your right to dive. Vocal opposition is the only way to beat this.

This tax does nothing to provide immediate (effective) protection for the GNS. The DPI's promises to the contrary **will** be proven to be false. Taxing Australians in their pursuit of passive sports and recreation is not acceptable. Promises to use some of the funds to buy back professional fishing licenses are misplaced – the Government sold off too many licenses for a quick profit, and the fishing industry is no longer sustainable at these levels. The Government should use those 'quick profits' to repair the damage from years of mis-management. Taxing divers is passing the buck. We all need to make our absolute rejection of this scheme known.

You can find out more from the SCAN website: <http://www.geocities.com/scansw/scanhome.htm>

You can see the DPI's Discussion Paper here: [http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/aboutus/resources/majorpubs/other/pages/scuba\\_diving\\_fee](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/aboutus/resources/majorpubs/other/pages/scuba_diving_fee)

You can comment directly to the DPI online via the link above or you can email your response to: [tsadmin@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tsadmin@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

The Discussion Paper is pathetic. Feel free to tell them so. It provides no detail on protection strategies, costings or gross revenue. It does little more than ask you how you'd like to be taxed. You can write to the Ministers and Shadow Ministers below. Snail-mail is better than e-mail, but e-mail is better than nothing.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>E-mail address</u>
Morris Iemma	Premier	<a href="mailto:thepremier@www.nsw.gov.au">thepremier@www.nsw.gov.au</a>
John Della Bosca	Minister for Commerce	<a href="mailto:office@smos.nsw.gov.au">office@smos.nsw.gov.au</a>
Bob Debus	Minister for the Environment	<a href="mailto:bob.debus@debus.minister.nsw.gov.au">bob.debus@debus.minister.nsw.gov.au</a>
Sandra Nori	Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation	<a href="mailto:min@nori.minister.nsw.gov.au">min@nori.minister.nsw.gov.au</a>
Ian Macdonald	Minister for Primary Industries	<a href="mailto:macdonald.office@macdonald.minister.nsw.gov.au">macdonald.office@macdonald.minister.nsw.gov.au</a>
Peter Debnam	Shadow Treasurer	<a href="mailto:peter.debnam@parliament.nsw.gov.au">peter.debnam@parliament.nsw.gov.au</a>
Duncan Gay	Shadow Minister for Primary Industries	<a href="mailto:Duncan.gay@parliament.nsw.gov.au">Duncan.gay@parliament.nsw.gov.au</a>
Michael Richardson	Shadow Minister for the Environment	<a href="mailto:thehills@parliament.nsw.gov.au">thehills@parliament.nsw.gov.au</a>

## JBDC – Club Calender 2006

The Committee is calling for input in form of photo's from around Jervis Bay – under or above water!

Everyone who supports the club by providing photos will receive 5 points.

Please submit your photos on a CDR marked with your details.  
You can hand it to any member of the committee or post it to :

JBDC, P.O. Box 2, Huskisson NSW 2540

Due Date: 30th November 2005